

Appl. No. 10/695,891
Reply to Office action of 9/20/05
Page 6

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 17 are hereby amended. Claim 20 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The amendment of claim 1, reciting "wherein the pivot section is located within the gear-change band and the output band when viewed from the side", is supported by the subject matter of claim 20. Claim 1 is further amended editorially. The amendment of claim 17, reciting "wherein the pivot shaft is located within the gear change first band and the second band when viewed from the side", is supported by the subject matter of claim 20.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11-17, 20 and 21 are rejected as being unpatentable over Ellsworth (US 6,595,538) in view of Lenoble (US 5,976,052). The Examiner relies upon Ellsworth to teach the claimed bicycle elements, less the transmission case. However, Ellsworth does not suggest a bicycle including a pivot section provided within two bands (gear-change band and output band in claim 1, gear change first band and second band in claim 17) when viewed from the side, as required by claims 1 and 17.

The Examiner contends that the claimed position of the output band and the gear-change band (or gear change first band and second band) is inherent based on the Ellsworth disclosure in Figures 1A and 4 and column 8, lines 32-34 and lines 54-59. Applicants disagree. Figure 1 does not show a position of either one or two chains (bands). Figures 4A-C disclose dashed lines representing the chain torque line, the torque varying based on gear selections and compression amount. See column 8, lines 29-35, column 14, lines 10-16, and column 21, lines 24-25. Therefore, Ellsworth does not disclose or suggest the claimed gear-change band or the output band.

Since the combination of Ellsworth and Lenoble does not teach or suggest a bicycle including all of the elements and relationships therebetween required by claims 1

Appl. No. 10/695,891
Reply to Office action of 9/20/05
Page 7

and 17, the current invention must be considered unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11-17, and 21 are requested.

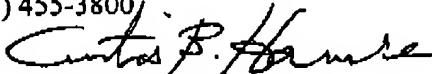
In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612)455-3802.

Respectfully submitted,



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